

information.

SATURDAY 18

Get down to a performance from true ska legends Bad Manners, from 7pm, at the Islington Assembly Hall, Upper Street, N1. Tickets from £20, call 020 7527 8900 for more information.

Browse away at A Glamorous Affair, a

for the German Föols season at the Bavarian Beerhouse, City Road EC1. Prizes for the best fancy dress, call 0844 3302005 for more information.

Develop your creativity at this art class for all abilities, taught by local artist Jon Britten, from 2 to 4.30pm, at Highbury Baptist Church, Highbury Place, N5. Eight sessions cost £60 (£35

Discuss one of the scariest books ever written, *The Woman in Black*, by the author Susan Hill – in the month a new version of the story hits the cinemas, from 7pm, at Kings Place, York Way, N1. Costs £8, call 020 7520 1490 for more information.

Celebrate Ja-Pancake Day with a free Dorayaki (a Japanese pancake) with

Centre, Hargrave Road, N19. Free, call 07842 784798 for more information.

Fix yourself at this weekly reiki-share sessions from 7.30 to 9.30pm every Wednesday and 5.30 to 7.30pm every Sunday, at Highbury Station Road, N1. For more information call 07957 423460.

February 20 - Licensing Sub-

3. Bette Bourne – a radical drag queen whose work with the Gay Liberation Front was ground-breaking
4. Harvey Milk – a US politician who made public office on an openly gay ticket
5. Peter Tatchell – a gay rights activist for 45 years who continues to fight the good fight

Protesters move on to old school site

Group of 15 'reclaim land'... but owners are granted a possession order

by **André Langlois**

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Supporters of Occupy London moved into an empty school site in Finsbury last week.

Since the takeover at the former Moorfields School building in Featherstone Street, Finsbury, the owner of the site, Southern Housing Group, has been granted a possession order on health and safety grounds.

The protesters were set to appeal against the eviction in court today (Thursday).

The site was sold to the developers in 2009 and two applications to transform the land into residential housing blocks have been lodged despite opposition from local residents, who are unhappy

with the design and are keen to keep it for community use.

Occupancy supporter Pete Phoenix, one of 15 people sleeping at the site, said: "We're here to reclaim for the public a community resource, at least until planning permission is granted."

He disagrees with grounds for eviction and said: "There have been five caretakers living on the premises without any issue."

Deplorable

The occupiers held an open day on Saturday attended by around 150 local residents to discuss how the space should be used. The school has a gym, classrooms and a basketball court which, while



■ The former site of Moorfields school has been occupied

occupied, will be used for free lectures, youth groups, elderly gatherings, exhibitions and film screenings.

Vince Mitchell, of Featherstone Street, and co-ordinator of Moorfield Residents'

MRAGE is fighting against the planning applications on the basis that the height of the building would be unacceptable.

Mr Mitchell added: "The development would force nearby residents to live in Dickensian dark conditions. It's daylight robbery."

They also argue that the plans leave no provision for public space and devalue what public space there is. A historic cemetery, Bunhill Fields, which is the last resting place of poet William Blake, is adjacent to the site.

Occupancy London began in October with an attempt to occupy the London Stock Exchange, leading to the encampment outside St Pauls and in Finsbury Square.

For the very latest news, views and information visit www.LONDON24.com